

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115208

FOR STYLES US CIVAIR DEL

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 6813 ACTION SECSTATE MAY 17.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UR, US

SUBJECT: CIVIL AIR

1. AT ARMED FORCES DAY RECEPTION AT SPASO MAY 13, SOVIET CIVIL AIR MINISTRY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN RELATIONS UNDER SAMORUKHOV ACKNOWLEDGED TO E/C COUNSELOR THAT APPROVAL OF FOUR EXTRA SECTIONS FOR SUMMER 1977 WAS HELPFUL. HOWEVER, HE COMPLAINED ABOUT REVENUE IMBALANCE IN PANAM FAVOR (INCLUDING CHARTERS) IN FAMILIAR TERMS AND ASSERTED THAT PANAM IN NEW YORK HAD SPURNED INTOURIST SUGGESTION TO BOOK PASSENGERS BOUND FOR USSR, WHO CONSEQUENTLY WERE BOOKED ON LOT AND SWISSAIR INSTEAD. (WE HAVE NOT HAD CHANCE TO CHECK THIS ALLEGATION WITH LOCAL PANAM REP, WHO HAS BEEN AWAY, BUT IT IS STANDARD PRACTICE BY SAMORUKHOV TO TRY TO SOW DISHARMONY BETWEEN USG AND PANAM.) COUNSELOR SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS MOST PUZZLING REPORT.

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2. ASKED WHEN HE THOUGHT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS, SAMORUKHOV SAID USSR WAS PREPARED AT ANY TIME, BUT HE ASSERTED ITS POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED FROM THE LAST ROUND OF TALKS IN MOSCOW. HE COMMENTED THAT PLANS FOR ANOTHER TRAVEL SEASON MIGHT WELL BE COMPLETED BEFORE THESE TALKS COULD BE HELD.

3. SAMORUKHOV ALSO PLAYED AGAIN THEME THAT MATTER SHOULD BE
TURNED OVER TO THE TWO AIRLINES, WHO COULD SETTLE THEIR
DIFFERENCES WITHOUT "GOVERNMENT" INTERFERENCE. HE ADMITTED,
HOWEVER, THAT "GOVERNMENT" CUTS A WIDE SWATH AROUND HERE.

4. COMMENT: SAMORUKHOV LEFT IMPRESSION THAT CIVIL AIR MINISTRY
WILL BE IN NO HURRY TO RESUME CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS AND
THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH "GIVE" IN CURRENT SOVIET POSITION.

MATLOCK UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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